



CHILDREN'S VOICE

WAUKESHA COUNTY'S CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

| February 2021 |

Waukesha County—Children's Long-Term Services (CLTS) Waiver Program Updates

The Special Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) has voted that the 2021 CCOP (Children's Community Option Program) funds will be used the same as in 2020 (once CCOP funds are depleted for 2021 they are gone). To better serve our families in a more timely manner, CCOP has turned into a reimbursement program.

When a need arises, just like any other time, families need to talk to their Service Coordinator about an item or service they wish to discuss for consideration for CCOP. Your Service Coordinator will then have a discussion with their supervisor about the item or service. Once a supervisor has approved the item, the new process will be a reimbursement to the family/you. Please do NOT make a purchase until you receive this final approval from your Service Coordinator. If it is not approved, we can not guarantee reimbursement. Upon final approval that you receive from your Service Coordinator, you will need to complete a W-9 tax form (one time only), make the purchase of the approved item and then submit the original receipt (not an invoice) for reimbursement. Your Service Coordinator will then process your reimbursement and you will receive a check via mail.

Every child and every family has very different situations (needs, finances, etc.). The requests are assessed based on the family and each individual child's needs. There may be certain family circumstances that you are not able to make the approved purchase. Please reach out to your Service Coordinator about these circumstances, as accommodations can be made in certain situations.

We also want to encourage families to join the SSAC meetings to have a voice in the program when it comes to your child's support and services. The mission of the Special Services Advisory Committee is to promote an understanding of the unique needs that families face while caring for a child with a developmental, physical, or mental health disability. It offers collaborative opportunities between the program administrators, SSAC members, and parents on ways program implementation can be optimized for the benefit of families who are enrolled in Children with Special Needs programming. It includes resource sharing, networking, and educational components that seek to provide information on topics that affect children with disabilities.

The next open SSAC meeting is May 20, 2021 from 12-1:30

Members may participate by phone or other remote means and will be considered present for quorum and voting purposes. Interested members of the public are encouraged to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams. To join the meeting, click on the below link:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

+1 414-435-2078 United States, Milwaukee (Toll)

Conference ID: 781 930 892#

Please contact Mardy Juhl, chair of the SSAC, for more information (262)970-6672.



We would love your feedback!

The Children with Special Needs Program would like your feedback in regards to our newsletter! What can we add? What should we change? Please email Mardy Juhl, CSN Supervisor at: mjuhl@waukeshacounty.gov

COVID-19 Resources

10 Ways to Support Children's Emotional Well-Being During COVID-19: 10 ways for parents and caregivers to support children's emotional well-being during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

250+ Creative Ways to Keep Your Family Sane During the COVID-19 Crisis: This is an excellent resource for games, activities, cooking, arts and crafts, science experiments, and more!

COVID-19 Updates from the Department of Children and Families: The Department of Children and Families is working closely with DHS and is committed to keeping you informed about COVID-19 and its impact here in Wisconsin.

Trainings

2020 Self-Determination Conference: is still available online! The conference website can still be accessed and will be available until closer to the 2021 conference. All of the sessions can be found on the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD's) youtube channel! Start the new year off right with a resolution to learn more about self-determination!

Mental Wellness

NAMI Basics: is a free virtual educational program for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents living with a mental health condition. It covers the fundamentals of caring for yourself, your family and for your child and provides you with important local community resources for finding help.

QPR: QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER

QPR is a training, offered at no cost, that educates community members about myths of suicide and how to get a person at risk of suicide the help they need. Individuals will learn three simple steps needed to know to help prevent suicide. Register to attend one of the next trainings: February 19th, March 19th, April 23rd from 12pm - 1:30pm

NAMI Virtual Parent Peer Support Group

For parents and caregivers who have a child under the age of 18 who is affected by a mental health condition and/or emotional difficulties. Gain insight from the successes of others facing similar experiences.

When: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, please contact Denise: 262-409-2743 or denise@namiwaukesha.org

Resources

Finding Your Way: A Navigation Guide for Wisconsin Families Who Have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities: is designed to help families and professionals navigate the system of care in Wisconsin. The guide may be particularly useful for any family having a special health care need or disability who recently received a diagnosis with questions or concerns about their child's development.



Ongoing Trainings

Parents United: Coalition of 26 school districts in collaboration with educators, community resources and related service providers focused on empowering parents of children with disabilities to become effective advocates and informed decision-makers. View the listing of free ongoing trainings in the [Parents United Brochure](#).

All in for Kids: CLTS Waiver Program Newsletter

Created to keep you and your family informed about the supports and services available through the CLTS Waiver Program. The newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

February 22, 2021

RE: Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine

To: Caregivers and Service Providers of:

Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program Eligible Participant, Children's Community Options Program Eligible Participant

From: Vickie Smith - Child and Family Division Interim Manager

The Department of Health Services has determined paid and unpaid individuals who are providing personal care services and other direct contact services are eligible under the category referred to as "Phase 1A" to have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes parents of participants in the Birth to Three, Children's Long-Term Support Waiver, and Children's Community Options Programs.

Waukesha County is committed to helping you access the vaccine. Waukesha County's Public Health Division has had a significant demand from the community for access to the vaccine and only a limited amount of vaccine is allocated to Waukesha County each week by the State, therefore we do have a waitlist of individuals in the 1A category seeking access. If you are able to receive the vaccine from your local medical professional, it is suggested that you attempt that route if at all possible.

In order to register to be put on the waitlist for the vaccine, please reach out to your service coordinator in how to do this.

If you are a parent who is an iLIFE or Broadscope fiscal agent employer of a staff member who provides services in the home, you are also able to share this letter with that individual.

Another recommendation is for individuals to sign up for our County Executive's newsletter. You will receive weekly updates with information related to COVID-19 and vaccines. When you access this webpage, there will be a pop-up with information to sign up for the [newsletter](#).

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